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Book Reviews

LETTERS TO A YOUNG LAWYER. By Arthur M. Harris. St. Paul. West Publishing Company, 1912. pp. 193.

This is a little book, the reading of which may safely be recommended to lawyers of whatever age and experience, though its main appeal is, as its title indicates, to those embarking upon their professional career. It is a kind of book, of which, unfortunately there are too few to be found on the lawyer's shelves, one which serves to stimulate the lawyer's thought upon the subject of the relation of his profession to the larger things of life. Not that Mr. Harris has written an exhortation to virtue, nor a serious treatise upon the duty of the lawyer with regard to the State. His wisdom is of the Benjamin Franklin sort rather than of the Emersonian. It ranges from "Let your stationery be neat" to "Do not think that the great body of our statutes and their interpretation is the meanest work of man. Every law in the code, every true and honest decision, is the expression of the most serious and earnest thoughts a civilized community entertains concerning the proper relations of the individual members of society one to another. The law is a truce between man and man, under which all agree to live, without which there must be everlasting discord and all the riot and confusion of barbarism." But, whether he is discussing the matter of the lawyer's selection of an office or the spirit of democracy as embodied in its courts, whatever the author says is marked by homely Yankee common sense. In giving this little book of less than 200 pages to the public, Mr. Harris has discharged the debt which Lord Bacon thought every lawyer owed to his profession better, perhaps, than if he had added to the groaning shelves of our law libraries the weight of an additional treatise on contracts or real property. He has, at least, given entertainment and food for thought.

ELEMENTS OF WESTERN WATER LAW. By A. E. Chandler. San Francisco. Technical Publishing Company, 1913. pp. x, 150.

Mr. Chandler's book does not profess to be addressed to lawyers or to law students, but is based, in part, upon a course of lectures upon Irrigation Institutions given to advanced students in the Colleges of Agriculture and Civil Engineering in the University of California. Nevertheless the lawyer whose interests lie in this field will find in the book much of interest with regard, in particular, to the administrative and practical side of water law. To lawyers unfamiliar with the doctrine of appropriation as it exists in the western States, the book should also prove valuable, and it can be recommended to students desiring a clear and concise general statement of the law of waters. But we believe that the book will be of greatest use and interest to engineers,

farmers, and those, without special legal training, who desire to know something of this important subject.

It should be said that Mr. Chandler has nothing but hard words for the riparian doctrine even in the semi-arid States. Thus, speaking of the doctrine of *Katz v. Walkinshaw*, he says, at page 36, "It is rather paradoxical to have the sub-surface supply, which is naturally conserved in the underground reservoirs regulated by a wise rule, while the surface supply, which, unless artificially stored or reasonably used, must run to waste, remains unregulated." The implication that the riparian doctrine expresses an unwise rule would probably not be concurred in by all persons competent to speak upon the subject. If the decisions of the courts can be taken as any index of the prevailing views, in California, at least, the latest cases show no tendency to recede from the riparian doctrine.